



**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

**RIN 0648-XE704**

**International Whaling Commission; 66th Meeting; Announcement of Public Meeting**

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces the date, time, and location of the public meeting to be held prior to the 66th International Whaling Commission (IWC) meeting.

**DATES:** The public meeting will be held October 3, 2016, at 9:30 a.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The public meeting will be held in the NOAA Science Center Room, 1301 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jordan Carduner at [jordan.carduner@noaa.gov](mailto:jordan.carduner@noaa.gov) or 301-427-8483.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Secretary of Commerce is responsible for discharging the domestic obligations of the United States under the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling, 1946. The U.S. IWC Commissioner has responsibility for the preparation and negotiation of U.S.

positions on international issues concerning whaling and for all matters involving the IWC. The U.S. IWC Commissioner is staffed by the Department of Commerce and assisted by the Department of State, the Department of the Interior, the Marine Mammal Commission, and other U.S. Government agencies.

A draft agenda for the upcoming IWC meeting will be posted on the IWC Secretariat's website at <http://www.iwc.int>.

NOAA will hold a public meeting to discuss the tentative U.S. positions for the October 2016 IWC meeting in Slovenia. Because the NOAA public meeting will address U.S. positions, the substance of the meeting must be kept confidential. Any U.S. citizen with an identifiable interest in U.S. whale conservation policy may participate, but NOAA reserves the authority to inquire about the interests of any person who appears at the meeting and to determine the appropriateness of that person's participation. In particular, persons who represent foreign interests may not attend. Persons deemed by NOAA to be ineligible to attend will be asked to leave the meeting. These stringent measures are necessary to protect the confidentiality of U.S. negotiating positions.

The October 3, 2016, meeting will be held in the NOAA Science Center Room, 1301 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Photo identification is required to enter the building.

#### **Special Accommodations**

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Jordan Carduner, *jordan.carduner@noaa.gov* or 301-427-8483, by September 19, 2016.

Dated: July 19, 2016.

John Henderschedt,  
Director, Office of International Affairs and Seafood  
Inspection Program,  
National Marine Fisheries Service.

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